

This bill lays out specific steps the Administration should take for the U.S. to resume a constructive role as the global leader in combating global warming.

Here at home, the Federal Government should lead by example. This bill requires the Federal Government to become carbon-neutral by the year 2050, and lays out a number of specific measures that will assist our government to achieve that goal.

States and local communities need to know how to plan for the global warming that is already underway. This bill reorganizes the federal climate change research, so every locality has information it needs to prepare.

It also assists us in tracking the effects of global warming on the oceans and wildlife so we can take steps to protect them.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Chairman, the legislation we debate today is just the ambitious first phase in what will be a series of revolutionary actions for energy independence.

But it is a very serious first step, that honors God's creation—our planet, and creates a better world for our children.

With confidence in American ingenuity and faith in our future, today we can declare a New Direction in our energy policy—one for our future generations. I urge my colleagues to do just that by supporting this bill.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1½ minutes.

I want to thank the Speaker for speaking and endorsing and her participation in bringing this legislation together, but specifically, from our committee, the Education and Labor Committee, the matter that is dealing with green jobs.

And I want to thank Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS and Congressman JOHN TIERNEY for all of the work they did to create green jobs, both in our urban areas and in the rural areas, to build the expertise, to build the capital necessary to meet the demands of this legislation.

For too long, we have debated this issue as if it's the environment against economic growth and jobs. This legislation points to the fact, with the great support of labor unions in our country, that this is also about growing jobs here at home with new technologies, new industries, new innovation and new discovery. And I want to mention the support the Laborers International Union, Operating Engineers, the Brotherhood of Carpenters, the Boilermakers, the Steelworkers, and others. They participated in this joint effort to develop these green jobs provisions, building on very successful models across this country.

Again, I want to pay tribute to Congressman TIERNEY and Congresswoman SOLIS for their effort to pull together a coalition of people understanding the dynamics and the economic growth this can mean in both rural America and urban America to build the expertise, to build the talent, to build the job skills to deal with the new technologies that the other committees of jurisdiction are bringing forth.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I am not a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, so I have a parliamentary inquiry. Are we on the Education and Workforce time at this time?

The CHAIRMAN. The committees may use the time in any order that they choose.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. My understanding on the rule was that we would go by committee, and the first committee would be Energy and Commerce, but Mr. MILLER is the chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee.

The CHAIRMAN. If the gentleman would suspend, the rule does not stipulate the order.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. So, could the Chair indicate what the order is?

The CHAIRMAN. No.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Well, Mr. Chairman, I would claim the time for the Education and Workforce Committee since the Education and Workforce Committee is not here.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will accommodate the committees in trying to use the time in whichever order they see fit. It is not at this point up to the Chair to decide.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, when Mr. DINGELL uses Energy and Commerce time, then I will use Energy and Commerce time, but at this point in time I will reserve the time.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, today I rise to highlight one aspect of the Energy bill that is before the House today, that's the provision essentially incorporating the Green Jobs Act of 2007, which had previously been passed by the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Let me begin by acknowledging and thanking Speaker PELOSI for making this issue, "the green workforce development," a priority in her environmental agenda.

My cosponsor, HILDA SOLIS of California, is appreciated for her work in ensuring that a broad cross section of workers get in at the bottom floor of this growing industry.

This innovative proposal, "green jobs," will make \$120 million a year available across the country to begin training workers for jobs in the clean energy sector. 35,000 people per year can benefit from vocational education that will provide for them secure employment in this country.

Until now, the United States has not really had a coherent strategy to address the growing labor shortage and demands of these green and clean energy sectors. This bill, this particular provision, will help a broad cross section of workers get into these growing industries.

Green-collar jobs can provide living wages and upward mobility. For some, they will create a way out of poverty, even as they help improve our environment and buttress our national secu-

rity by lessening reliance on foreign oil.

We've passed legislation to increase science, technology, engineering and math teachers, to educate more engineers and scientists. Now we have the chance to make sure that those who do not have degrees or do not choose to go to college can also support a family and contribute to their communities. Urban youth, retired veterans, struggling farmers, and displaced workers from our manufacturing sectors can all get training through this proposal.

They will help meet a growing labor need as America seeks thousands of green-collar workers to install millions of solar panels, to weatherize buildings and homes, to build and maintain wind farms, and more. These jobs are energy saving, air quality improving, and carbon cutting, and they're all local. They mostly cannot be outsourced to other countries. Solar panels and wind farms need to be built here. Buildings to be retrofitted to save energy have their foundations in U.S. soil.

Today, we can join Speaker PELOSI and the many numerous advocacy organizations that have worked hard to develop and expand the concept of green jobs, making sure that the benefits of a cleaner and greener economy are shared broadly at all income levels.

Special acknowledgement goes to the Ella Baker Center's Van Jones, whose passionate expressions have been liberally borrowed here and whose personal energy has greatly advanced this idea.

The return in energy savings helped by green jobs can be enormous. The positive impact on lives from rewarding employment can be priceless. Mr. Chairman, this provision of the clean energy bill can help provide America with the working muscle, practical experience and training, and industry-specific intelligence to change our Nation's future.

I urge my colleagues to support the entire bill, being mindful that the Green Jobs Act of 2007 contributes specifically to this appeal.

Mr. TIERNEY. I am going to reserve the balance of the Education Committee's time on this and defer to the Committee on Energy.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

The legislation here represents the work of 10 committees. In the portion of the legislation written by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, there is not a single provision that a Member would feel justified in opposing. The legislation from the Commerce Committee sets appliance standards for buildings and other devices and appliances which, when in full force, will save 10 million tons emissions of carbon dioxide, more than the annual emissions of every car in this country. It promotes the development of the Smart Electricity Grid that will deliver energy to a household in a more efficient manner. It paves the way for more efficient use of electricity and